

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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### **REMARKS BY**

## **U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA AT THE GOMBHIRA PERFORMANCE**

**RANIHATI MULTI-PURPOSE HIGH SCHOOL  
Shibanj, Chapai Nawabganj  
February 27, 2012**

**RAJSHAHI, FEBRUARY 27 --** U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena gave the following remarks at the Gombhira Performance.

(Begin Text)

Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, Headmaster, Ranihati Multi-Purpose High School

Mr. Moshin Ali Miah, Chairman, School Management Committee

Students of Ranihati Multi-Purpose High School, and local guests

Asalaam-alaikum!

What a great ghombhira!

I love watching ghombhira.

They always have a good story to tell and they make me laugh.

This gombhira was especially good.

This gombhira reminds us that there are some people who want to take away Bangladesh's freedom, which was won at such high cost 40 years ago.

These people oppose the moderation, tolerance, openness and peacefulness that are core elements of Bengali culture and values.

These people seek to impose their own values of hatred and intolerance on Bangladesh.

These people seek to do this by violence. We call these people terrorists. These terrorists want you to join them and to turn on your own country.

But I think you may have different goals in life.

Young people I meet elsewhere in Bangladesh speak of building a New Bangladesh, a Golden Bangladesh...

A Bangladesh that is peaceful and prosperous; a Bangladesh whose people are healthy, whose people have access to good food, whose children can get a good education, and whose people are hopeful about the future.

Maybe you share this dream, too.

I believe fervently that such a Bangladesh is possible over the next 10 or 15 years.

But terrorists are not going to make this dream become reality ... they seek to destroy this dream.

You ... and young people like you across this wonderful nation ... you are the ones to make the Golden Bangladesh reality.

The youth of the nation are the future of the nation.

You are the next generation ... You are the businessmen, teachers, farmers, fishermen, doctors, nurses, politicians, government officials, cultural figures of tomorrow ... As I stand here and look at you ..... I can see that the future of Bangladesh is very bright, indeed.

My wife Grace and I, my colleagues from the United States Embassy in Dhaka, and our colleagues from the Portland, Oregon Police Bureau, are all so happy to be here at Ranihati Multi-Purpose High School.

We thank you for your gracious hospitality.

Before we leave, I would like to present Headmaster Hossain with a gift for your high school. This laptop is a gift from ANKUR International, a group of Bangladeshi-Americans who live in the State of Oregon, the same state where my Portland Police Bureau colleagues are from. ANKUR will be donating 100 laptops just like this one to schools across Bangladesh. I know you will put it to good use.

Thank you for your warm welcome today, and thank you for a terrific gombhira performance!

(End Text)

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